

Staff Picks

April 2021

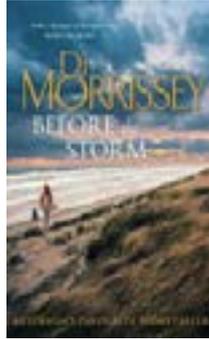
Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you what we are reading, listening to or watching.

Before the Storm

Author: Di Morrissey

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book, Compact Disc

Face her demons or run? After being double-crossed by a devious colleague, career woman Ellie Conlan quits her job on principle. With no idea what to do next, she retreats to Storm Harbour, an idyllic Victorian beach town. Ellie's grandfather runs The Storm Harbour Chronicle, the trusted local newspaper. As Ellie is drawn into a story about a development that could split the coastal community - and involves her with the influential O'Neill family - an event she has long suppressed threatens to overwhelm her. Dark clouds gather as rumours fly and tensions mount. And when a violent storm breaks and rages, Ellie will finally have to confront her past.

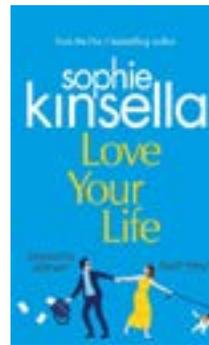


Love Your Life

Author: Sophie Kinsella

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Compact Disc, Large Print

I love you, but what if I can't love your life? Ava is sick of online dating. She's always trusted her own instincts over an algorithm anyway, and she wants a break from it all. So, when she signs up to a semi-silent, anonymous writing retreat in glorious Italy, love is the last thing on her mind. Until she meets a handsome stranger. All she knows is that he's funny, he's kind and - she soon learns - he's great in bed. He's equally smitten and after a whirlwind, intoxicating affair, they pledge their love without even knowing each other's real names. But when they return home, reality hits. They're both driven mad by each other's weird quirks and annoying habits, from his eccentric, naked-sauna-loving family to her terribly behaved, shirt-shredding dog. As disaster follows disaster, it seems that while they love each other, they just can't love each other's lives. Can they overcome their differences to find one life, together?

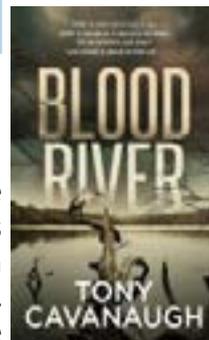


Blood River

Author: Tony Cavanaugh

Format: Book, Large Print

Brisbane 1999. It's hot. Stormy. Dangerous. The waters of the Brisbane River are rising. The rains won't stop. People's nerves are on edge. And then a body is found. And then another. And another. A string of seemingly ritualised but gruesome murders. All the victims are men. Affluent. Guys with nice houses, wives and kids at private schools. All have had their throats cut. Detective Sergeant Lara Ocean knows the look. The 'my-life-will-never-be-the-same-again look'. She's seen it too many times on too many faces. Telling a wife her husband won't be coming home. Ever again. Telling her the brutal way he was murdered. That's a look you never get used to. Telling a mother you need her daughter to come to the station for questioning. That's another look she doesn't want to see again. And staring into the eyes of a murderer, yet doubting you've got it right. That's the worst look of all the one you see in the mirror. Get it right, you're a hero and the city is a safer place. Get it wrong and you destroy a life. And a killer remains free. Twenty years down the track, Lara Ocean will know the truth.

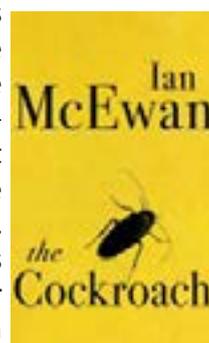


The Cockroach

Author: Ian McEwan

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book

"Jim Sams has undergone a metamorphosis. In his previous life he was ignored or loathed, but in his new incarnation he is the most powerful man in Britain - and it is his mission to carry out the will of the people. Nothing must get in his way: not the opposition, nor the dissenters within his own party. Not even the rules of parliamentary democracy."--Publisher description.

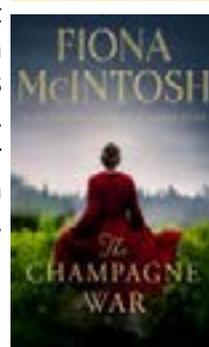


The Champagne War

Author: Fiona McIntosh

Format: eBook, Book, Compact Disc

From the killing fields of Ypres to the sun-kissed vineyards of southern France, a story of love and hope.



Close Up

Author: Amanda Quick
Format: Book

Recommended by a customer, this book was such a pleasant surprise. As Book 4 of the Burning Cove series, it's set in California during the 1930s, but it didn't matter that I hadn't read the previous novels. Vivian is a female photographer, dispossessed by her wealthy father for wanting to make it in the art world. When an attempt is made on her life, a mysterious, enigmatic investigator steps in to catch the culprit. Very easy reading, and if you enjoyed the classic Hollywood Thin Man movies, featuring sleuths Nick and Nora Charles, you'll probably love this!



Greenlights

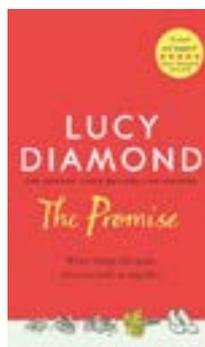
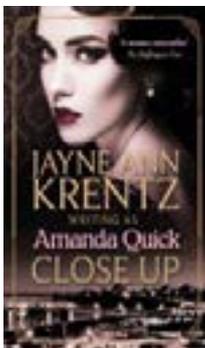
Author: Matthew McConaughey
Format: Book

1989, when he didn't know all the twists and turns that awaited him — the acting awards he'd win, the wife and children he'd have, the bracing dramas and banal rom-coms he'd make.

World War Z

Author: Max Brooks
Format: Book, Compact Disc, DVD

Reviewing the original - the book (though the DVD has Brad Pitt, it does not have the scope of the book, occurring over mere days while the book encompasses decades). Max Brooks is a UN Postwar Commission investigator tasked with recording first-hand testimony of survivors of the Zombie War. The beginning is eerily similar to our own current situation (with a different virus obviously) tracing patient zero, government reactions, the panic... These personal accounts detail the resulting social, political, religious, economic, and environmental changes occurring during & after the outbreak. It is not a slasher horror, but a 'reality fiction' that explores the humanity or lack of it in individuals & governments in the face of an unprecedented global event. Millions of panicked refugees attempt to flee to a safety that does not exist (their flight to the snow-line & the resulting clean-up is particularly wrenching). Trying to get your head round the numbers & percentages - if there had been over 7 billion humans & the war came close to eradicating humanity, that leaves billions of undead - sombering. And I'm still wondering about the fate of the North Koreans. Well worth reading World War Zed not Zee.



The Promise

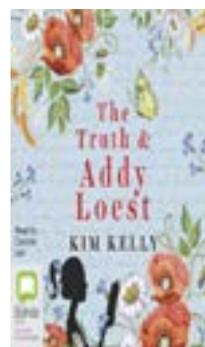
Author: Lucy Diamond
Format: eBook, Book

Obituary: Patrick Sheppard tragically died after falling into the Thames, aged just 42 years. Dearly loved husband of Zoe, hero to children Ethan, Gabe and Beatrice, he also leaves behind his parents, beloved brother Dan and a thriving business. A friend to all, a family man, Patrick's legacy lives on. But as Dan desperately tries to hold on to the unravelling threads of Patrick's family and tie them back together, he begins to see that his brother's legacy might not be all that perfect. Patrick had been keeping secrets. Patrick had been telling lies. And to put things right, Dan is going to have to risk breaking the hearts of his grieving family all over again.

Tell Me a Secret

Author: Jane Fallon
Format: eBook, Book

Holly is feeling on top of the world - celebrating a new promotion and dying to pop the champagne with her best friend Roz. But is Holly just imagining things, or is Roz - who supported her every step of the way - not as happy for her as she should be? Something about Roz's behaviour doesn't add up. And soon Holly has the sneaking suspicion that there's a target on her back. Has someone been playing dirty in a war Holly didn't know she was fighting? And is Roz more tangled up in this than she'll admit? Only one woman can be left standing - but will the best woman win?



The Truth & Addy Loest

Author: Kim Kelly
Format: eAudiobook

An absolutely captivating view of Sydney in 1985 through the eyes of a working class girl with a tragic past.